

An extension of time to respond to the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested. A Petition for an Extension of Time and the appropriate fee are being filed concurrently.

Please amend the specification as follows:

In the Claims

Please add new Claims 18-22.

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18. (New) A recombinant retroviral vector of Claim 4 wherein the retroviral vector is capable of undergoing promoter conversion and is replication-defective comprising, in operable linkage,
- a) a 5' long terminal repeat region comprising the structure U3-R-U5;
 - b) one or more coding sequences wherein at least one sequence is selected from sequences encoding a peptide selected from the group consisting of: a peptide with Sag activity, and a derivative of the peptide with Sag activity;
 - c) optionally, at least one sequence encoding a peptide selected from the group consisting of: β -galactosidase, neomycin, alcohol dehydrogenase, puromycin, hypoxanthine phosphoribosyl transferase (HPRT), hygromycin, secreted alkaline phosphatase, Herpes Simplex Virus thymidine kinase, cytosine deaminase, guanine phosphoribosyl transferase (gpt), cytochrome P 450, cell cycle regulatory proteins, tumor suppressor proteins, antiproliferation proteins, and cytokines; and
 - d) a 3' long terminal repeat region comprising a completely or partially deleted U3 region wherein said deleted U3 region is replaced by a polylinker sequence carrying at least one unique restriction site.
19. (New) The recombinant vector of Claim 18 wherein one or more heterologous DNA fragments are inserted into said polylinker sequence, followed by the R and U5 region.
20. (New) The recombinant vector according to Claim 19 wherein said heterologous DNA fragment comprises at least one non-coding sequence selected from regulatory elements